# MID YEAR IMPACT REPORT

Connecting our Jewish community through sport and wellbeing

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## Presidents' Message

When we took on the role of Co-Presidents at the end of 2022, we thought we knew what was in store. We were tasked with growing our Board and its capacity, reconnecting with clubs on a personal level, and ensuring that Maccabi Victoria was a thriving brand and body. Having been involved in sport for our whole lives, we came into the role knowing the importance of grassroots participation, strong governance and engaged volunteers; and having been involved in Maccabi for many years as athlete, coach, parent, and committee member, we had a strong appreciation for what Maccabi is and everything it represents.

Over the last six months we have come to realise that it is everything we thought it would be and more. Yes, it's exciting to be a part of the 'big things' – the search for a new home for Maccabi, the first National Junior Carnival in 3 years, and community-wide programs and initiatives – but it's just as special to be a part of the moments that the wider community often don't see – watching old friends reconnect at a Friends of Maccabi lunch, seeing new friendships form on the field, and working with club committees behind the scenes to help improve everyone's Maccabi experience.

In our short time as Presidents, we have been lucky enough to be a part of both Maccabi and community memories and milestones – we have stood alongside Holocaust survivors on the footy field to mark Yom HaShoah, we've cheered our inaugural All Abilities FIDA team, and we have taken an active role in improving our future with the Jewish Climate Network. We have welcomed athletes from interstate for Junior Carnival and for social catchball, we have celebrated high achievements with the Maccabi Sports Awards, and we have brought together a strong and active Board who are keen to make an impact on our community.

Of course we could not have done this alone, and want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone in the community who helps keep the Maccabi magic alive – to our athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, donors, groundskeepers, partners organisations, clubs, committees, Board, staff and supporters – we may be the 'face' of Maccabi Victoria, but you are its heart and soul.

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Dean Mohr & Sharon Roseman Co-Presidents - Maccabi Victoria







## HIGHLIGHTS



#### **ALL ABILITIES PROGRAM**

- The Maccabi Ajax All Stars team made
- their FIDA league debut. In Feb, the AA team joined AJAX Cricket for a team building Shabbat Dinner.
- This year the offerings have expanded and include a new Maccabi FC Caulfield and Maccabi AA Mighty Bees soccer training program.



## MACCABI ATHLETIC CLUB

- Athletes competed at the 2023 Victorian Under Age (U13-U18) Track &
- Field Champs. New coaches, David Blecher (sprints) and Jarrod Zuchowski (distance), joined
- the Club. The Club conducted strategic workshops facilitated by Club Builder 2035.



### **MACCABI AJAX CRICKET CLUB (SENIORS)**

- Solid season for the Club's development team, finishing 4th with 9 wins, 5 draws, and 6 losses.
- Presentation Night, hosted by Mark Soffer and attended by legends and sponsors, celebrated outstanding players and achievements.



MACCABI AJAX CRICKET

U13 Warriors won their Grand Final. The Club welcomed Darren Sacks as

their next President. Gigi Goldman awarded the Michael Klinger award for outstanding performance at Representative Level at the Club's Annual Awards Night.

**CLUB (JUNIORS)** 

#### AJAX AMATEUR FOOTBALL **CLUB**

- The Club celebrated the opening of the Daryl Cohen Rooms at Albert Park.
- Due to the overwhelming numbers, AJAX teams in 2023 include the Seniors, Reserves, Saturday Thirds, Sunday Thirds, Jackettes and All Star teams



### MACCABI GOLF CLUB

- Fantastic Maccabi Golf Moonah Event at Fantastic Maccabi Golf Moonan Event at Moonah Links took place in June. Participants engaged in fierce A, B, and C grade individual Stableford contests. Zac Wolfe, a 7 y.o prodigy, is making waves at the Club. Zac joined the Moonah event finishing the top few on the day, despite playing off men's tees!



### MACCABI VICTORIA **BASKETBALL CLUB**

- Incredible performance by U16 & U18 at Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament.
- Vice President Kim Scher awarded
- Maccabi Vic Volunteer of the Year.
- Shoutout to the Maccabi U18 team for a championship win at Casey Tournament.



### AJAX JUNIOR FOOTBALL **CLUB**

- Star-studded Open Day event with Jemima Montag, Mia Zielinski, current AFLW Players, and the AJAX Jackettes. 6 players were selected to represent the Club in the SMJFL 2023 AFL VIC Metro Junior Development Series.



### **MACCABI AJAX NETBALL CLUB**

In May the Club raised over \$1000 in support of Breast Cancer Research! Coming together as a community, it was incredible to see everyone at Maccabi Ajax Netball dress in pink and stand up for such a worthy cause.



### **MACCABI FC CAULFIELD**

- Talented young athletes from Maccabi FC Caulfield took to the field at AAMI Park for the Melbourne Victory Pride Cup round.
- Football Australia has awarded Maccabi FC Caulfield a 1 Star Game Changer recognition for the work taking place in female football at the Club.



## NORTH CAULFIELD **FOOTBALL CLUB**

- The Club entered a new side in the Men's Metropolitan League 3SE division. In March the Club launched a new
- website: <u>ncfc.org.au</u> - check it out! Senior players donated their old playing
- gear to the Reagan Milstein Foundation.



#### MACCABI AJAX SWIMMING **CLUB**

In January, the Maccabi Ajax Swimming Club partook in the Mount Martha Annual Diamond (MMAD) swim event.



#### **MACCABI TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

Great performance from Division 2 and 3 Maccabi Table Tennis teams at the • 2023 Grand Finals. From winning against formidable opponents to making strategic comebacks, the season was an embodiment of the true spirit of competitive table tennis



### **MACCABI TENNIS CLUB**

- The Club has partnered with Game On Recycling to recycle tennis balls. They have also upgraded to environmentally friendly LED court lights. The annual Maccabi Tennis Interstate Challenge between Victoria and NSW recommenced this year, with some friendly interstate rivalry.



### **MACCABI SQUASH CLUB**

A smashing season for the Maccabi Squash Club with both their 1st and 2nd teams reaching the grand finals in the Southern Squash League's summer season



MACCABI AJAX SKI CLUB

Ski season opened at the Mt. Buller AJAX ski lodge on the 23rd of June. The Australian Maccabi Snow Sports Championships will take place at Mt. Buller at the end of July. There will be junior, senior and adult divisions available. The ultimate snow showdown!



#### **MACCABI JUNIOR CARNIVAL**

The first national Maccabi Junior Carnival in 3 years sprung into life in Melbourne, featuring 210 young Jewish athletes from Victoria, NSW, WA and Queensland.



## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Maccabi Victoria partnered with In One Voice, Zionism Victoria and the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, celebrating our community at In One Voice and Yom Ha'atzmaut as well as honouring the memory of Holocaust victims during Yom Hashoah.



#### WOMEN IN SPORT

- In May, an Interstate Social Catchball tournament took place in Sydney. VIC & NSW teams battled it out in a spirited competition.
- The Maccabi FC Soccer Mums program has blossomed, culminating in the formation of a competitive team.



## **NEW FACES**

In 2023 we warmly welcome new board member, Simon Szwarc as Chair of the Maccabi Victoria Board. We • also welcome newcomer Jenny Schulman who fills the role of Admin Officer. Wishing our new team members all the best in their #MaccabiProud roles.



#### **GREENING INITIAITIVES**

- Maccabi Victoria attended the Zero Emissions Cohort Program which is aimed at supporting organisations to realise that potential. The Maccabi team have embarked on a project to develop an updated onvicemental policy
- environmental policy.



### AWARDS

The Maccabi Across Australia Sports Awards were held in April. 7 Victorian recipients took home awards from a variety of sports including weightlifting, snooker, basketball and athletics. We are truly #MaccabiProud!



### **HOLIDAY CAMPS**

- Maccabi had the pleasure of visiting UJEB camp in the April school holidays. It was an awesome collaboration of sportsmanship and ruach.
- The Mega Camp School Holiday Program was a great success. Mega Camp kids enjoyed basketball, netball, futsal and other fun sporting activities.



## FRIENDS OF MACCABI

In May, the Caulfield Park Sports Club was filled with old and new faces, laughter, and the unmistakable spirit of Maccabi. Our esteemed panelists brought their incredible stories to life, captivating the audience with their journeys and experiences within Maccabi and beyond.

MACCABI SOCIAL CONNECTIONS





## Maccabi Spirit

## Friends of Maccabi

It was a truly heartwarming morning on Monday 15 May - the Caulfield Park Sports Club was filled with old and new faces, laughter, and the unmistakable spirit of Maccabi. Our esteemed panelists - Lenny Bogatin OAM, Judy Kohn, Lenny Gross OAM, Narene Ignace, Michael Klinger, and Alida Lipton - brought their incredible stories to life, captivating the audience with their journeys and experiences within Maccabi and beyond.



We had the pleasure of witnessing a delightful show-and-tell session, where panelists proudly displayed their Maccabiah medals and shared memorable moments captured in photos from their heydays. It was a nostalgic trip down memory lane that brought smiles to our faces and evoked a sense of pride in our community's history. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the sponsors who made this event possible: Fella Hamilton, Chemist Warehouse, Lindt, Lenny's Deli, Cafe Eden, Coles, Stocked Food Store, Continental Kosher Butcher, and Classic Cinema.

After so long it was wonderful to see our Friends of Maccabi community coming together in such a memorable way, reconnecting and forging new bonds.

## Women In Sport

In the lead up to International Women's Day, Maccabi Victoria launched 'SHE RUNS THE GAME', an online campaign honouring exceptional women in the community. Uncovering inspiring stories through interviews, the campaign highlighted deserving unsung heroes like Samantha Blackstone, a coach at Maccabi Ajax Netball Club who promoted gender equality, and Amanda Caplan, the devoted team manager of Ajax Football Club's Jackettes female team.

This campaign, a testament to the incredible achievements of these women, celebrated their diversity, strength, resilience, and significant contributions to our community. It aimed to inspire more women to pursue greatness, take on leadership roles in sports and beyond, and create a more inclusive community. Check out the 'She Runs The Game' Campaign for the ultimate display of female sporting power: <u>HERE</u>.

## "Friends"

IT WAS A NOSTALGIC TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE THAT BROUGHT SMILES TO OUR FACES AND EVOKED A SENSE OF PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY.





SOCCER MUMS

## Women In Sport Programs

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WEEKS OF SOCIAL CA

Maccabi FC Caulfield is redefining what it means to be a soccer mum, putting the focus back on these amazing women.

Their weekly games provide not only a powerful physical workout but also a mental health boost - much needed me-time amidst their busy schedules. As one mum beautifully put it: "We're used to doing everything for the kids... Go Soccer Mums is like GO US! Bringing it back to us, letting us do something for ourselves as well."

Soccer Mums sparked the impetus for the group to start the Mummy Bees that now compete in the women's metro sevens masters season. Watch Go Soccer Mums HERE.

## <u>ACHIEVEMENTS</u>

CATCHBALL

SOCIAL

CATCHBALL

Catchball, originally an Israeli sport derived from volleyball, has taken the world by storm. The game is played by passing the ball over a net to the opponent's court without hitting it.

There have been 2 interstate carnival events held with a group of Sydney & Melbourne participants competing. Melbourne hosted in March, and Sydney in May. This event forms part of our ongoing Maccabi Women in Sport Program, aimed at promoting camaraderie and empowering women through sport.







MACCABI SOCIAL CONNECTIONS







## **Maccabi All Abilities**

## All Abilities - Update

Maccabi Victoria All Abilities aims to provide Jewish people with disabilities with greater opportunities to participate in sport and recreation. We strive to have as many people as possible regularly involved in inclusive and integrated sporting and active recreational opportunities.

In 2023 Maccabi All Abilities is thrilled to see the introduction of new exciting programs alongside the ongoing success of established activities like basketball and swimming.

## Achievements:

- First ever All Abilities FIDA Football team. For the first time Maccabi AJAX have an All-Abilities Football team in the FIDA league. The team hosted their first home game on the 4th of June.
- In February, the Senior Cricket Club and All Abilities jointly hosted a Friday night synagogue service, which was followed by a delightful Shabbat dinner. It was a wonderful bonding experience for the team.



maccabi

**HOW COOL IS THIS?** FIDA is the leading organisation in inclusive football and

has established Australian Rules football competition for players with an intellectual disability. 4 SPORTS CRICKET BASKETBALL SWIMMING AFL

34 PARTICIPANTS

> 36 EVENTS



A huge **thank you** to our generous donors and sponsors - Gandel Foundation, Alan Synman and family, the Aronson Family, Charidy Donors, and those who have shared their simchas with us - who continue to support our All Abilities program, our dedicated coaches and volunteers, and to the Maccabi Victoria clubs, Board, Foundation and office staff who help make our programs possible.









All Abilities - Interview with Bailey Layton Kate Lustig interviews AJAX Footy All Star Player, Bailey Layton

## So Bailey, can you tell me a bit about yourself and how you got involved with Maccabi All Abilities and the football team?

I first got involved the Maccabi All Abilities team just from hearing about it online. And then I've been going to watch a lot of the senior games this season. And then Jeff Israel approached me one day being like, Hey, do you want to come play for the football team?

## And what does it mean to you to be part of the All Abilities Team and how has this experience impacted your life?

I feel like me being able to be a part of it is actually amazing. I've been living in Canada for the past nine years almost, and moving back to Melbourne has been amazing. And then for me now, playing footy in an All Abilities setting has been unreal.

## As a player in the FIDA League, how does it feel to compete? Can you share a memorable moment or your biggest achievement?

Well, my biggest achievement - me kicking my first goal against Fountain Gate! And having a home ground, and also being captain today has been unreal!

## Can you tell us about some of your teammates and the bond you share with them on and off the field?

I feel like on the field, we're a very close knit group. We get along amazingly and we know what we have to do.

## How have the coaches or other members of the Maccabi community supported you through your journey in footy?

Love everybody here. There's so many people here that I can shout out right now. I've also been involved in the All Abilities Basketball Team, which has been good.

## One last question. who is your favourite player in the AFL and who do you go for in the footy?

My favourite player is Nick Daicos and I go for Collingwood.

The All Stars making headlines in the AJN





Bailey Layton, Maccabi AJAX ALL Star













## **UJEB Camp & MEGA Camp**

MACCABI NEXT GEN ATHLETES

## **UJEB** Camp

As part of our program to connect with the wider community and build relationships with partnering community organisations, Maccabi had the pleasure of visiting the UJEB (United Jewish Education Board) campsite in the April school holidays.

Our day was filled with enthusiastic competition in both basketball and soccer. Players brought energy, enthusiasm and encouragement to foster a successful team environment.

Coaches and participants had an awesome collaboration of sportsmanship and ruach. We hope to play a part in fostering more fun-filled days in the future between organisations.

## Maccabi Mega Camp

Our Sports Mega Camp, held in June 2023, was a resounding success, serving as a dynamic platform for fostering teamwork, sporting skills, and camaraderie among participants. This holiday sports program targeted students from years 3 to 6, featuring a multitude of sports activities, Participants were exposed to the rudiments of basketball, netball, futsal, volleyball, badminton, and more, receiving coaching from experienced trainers. Activities were designed to be inclusive and offered opportunities for all children to participate fully, encouraging growth both in sports skills and social abilities.



The June 2023 Sports Mega Camp was an unequivocal success. We are pleased to see our mission of promoting sport and physical activity among young children fulfilled. The event's positive outcome strengthens our commitment to continue providing such opportunities, thus contributing to the development of well-rounded young individuals.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the participants, parents, coaches, and volunteers who made this event possible. Their passion and dedication contributed to the event's success, and we look forward to even more successful Mega Camps in the future.

Stay tuned for our next Mega Camp planned for September 2023.

Watch the MegaCamp day 1 recap video.













## Henry Jolson Pathways

## **Henry Jolson Pathways Program**

The Maccabi Henry Jolson Pathways Program provides a valuable link between Maccabi Clubs and the Jewish day schools; offering children an opportunity to participate in sports and learn new ones as a result of subsidised specialised sports coaches.

The Program is focused on promoting the benefits of sports and physical activity among young people, helping to develop critical skills such as teamwork, leadership, and resilience as well as creating a pathway for our children to engage in sports, from grassroots to elite levels.

Beyond sports, the Henry Jolson Pathways Program instills responsibility and commitment in participants, molding them into well-rounded individuals who positively contribute to society.





In January the Maccabi Junior Carnival made a triumphant comeback post-Covid, with Maccabi Victoria hosting the first national event in three years! This fun, sporty and social gathering united over 200 enthusiastic Carni Athletes from 4 states, bringing our Jewish youth together through their passion for sports while creating unforgettable memories and lifelong friendships.

Watch our #CarniKids share their highlights and favourite moments <u>HERE</u>.

## Tali Reflects

Maccabi as an organisation has provided me with many opportunities extending beyond the sports field. As a young player my involvement in the sports clubs connected me with other Jewish children through a shared passion of sports. I made life-long friends and extended those relationships nationally when I attended several Junior Carnivals. I have had the privilege to participate in the Maccabiah games both as a player and as a coach.

My involvement in the Maccabi Ajax Netball Club as the Director of Coaching, a position I held for 7 years, reminds me every day of the responsibility we have to continue to create an environment for the next generation of our community so that they may also have the same opportunities that we were afforded. I am lucky enough to see the direct impact our netball program has on our members and the wider community.

Volunteerism is one of the cornerstones of any community organisation. When I was approached to get involved in the 2023 National Junior Carnival I accepted enthusiastically. I saw this position as an opportunity to give back to an organisation that has had such a significant impact for my sports, social, community and career.

Getting involved in the 2023 National Junior Carnival introduced me to new friends, Maccabi networks and taught me valuable skills. Most importantly my involvement in Carnival gave me the platform to provide an unforgettable experience for our next generation of the Maccabi community. It was a truly rewarding experience.



Tali Friede Maccabi Junior Carnival Manager 2023





WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU



## **Thank You Supporters**

In the heart of community sports, within the huddle of Maccabi Victoria, we extend our deepest appreciation to all our incredible donors and volunteers.

Your unwavering support goes beyond nets and balls, beyond goals and finish lines - it touches the spirit of every athlete and encourages every dreamer. You stand as testament to the power of community and the magic of sport, your generosity propelling us towards a future where everyone, regardless of their background or ability, has a chance to participate, compete and shine. You've transformed the game, created a ripple of change that reaches further than you can ever imagine, and for this, Maccabi Victoria and its family of athletes will forever be grateful. Your contribution continues to inspire us all, on and off the field, shaping a vibrant and inclusive sporting community that we are all proud to be part of #MaccabiProud.

## Grants

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our partners and funders; **Sport Recreation Victoria (SRV)**, **VIC Health Jump Start**, the **City of Glen Eira**, and **SRV Community Activation**. These grants helped fund programs such as Soccer Mums, Maccabi Club Inclusion Programs, and Social Women in Sport initiatives such as catchball and basketball. Additionally, receiving funds for club equipment, venue rentals, and holiday programs within the clubs. We extend our deepest gratitude to hese organisations for their unwavering support.

## Jeremy Reflects

I have been involved in Maccabi for as long as I can remember. Starting junior basketball and cricket at the age of 8 and playing all through school, coaching basketball for 5 years and participating in multiple Junior Carnivals, Maccabi has played a pivotal role in my life.

Sport has always been the way in which I have connected with the broader Jewish community, and believe in the importance Maccabi plays in bringing Jews together not only here in Victoria but nationally and globally.



Jeremy Lustig Maccabi Victoria Volunteer Board Member



Now, after years of receiving the invaluable benefits and experiences that Maccabi has offered, I feel deeply compelled to give back to this community. The spirit of volunteerism has always held a special place in my heart and that of my family's. It's more than a commitment—it's a legacy, a way of life. The same organisation that has given me so much has ignited in me the desire to give back, and this has guided my decision to serve as treasurer on the Board.

Maccabi is not just an organisation, but a community, a family that I've been part of since childhood. It's a torch passed down from my father, a former Maccabi president, to my sister, who currently serves as the All Abilities program officer, and now to me. Stepping into this role, I look forward to fostering the sense of unity, camaraderie, and connection that Maccabi nurtures. It's an opportunity for me to contribute and make a difference, keeping the spirit of Maccabi vibrant and influential in the Jewish community. I wholeheartedly believe in the power of volunteering, and I am eager to navigate the path that lies ahead, filled with responsibilities, opportunities and challenges.





WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU







## Maccabi Support

## Simcha Support

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the community members who decide to celebrate their simchas alongside us.

So far this year, **8** young Maccabi Proud members have generously included us in their bar/bat mitzvah celebrations, raising over **\$10,000** to support Maccabi Victoria programs.

Mark your next milestone occasion by asking for donations to the Maccabi Foundation - Click Here.

We had the pleasure of welcoming some of our Maccabi Simcha Kids to the third All Stars footy home game. The generous Jesse, Joel, Ethan, and Jonah saw firsthand the significant impact their donations have made on the Maccabi All Abilities program and the Maccabi Relief Fund, all in celebration of their bar mitzvahs. We eagerly anticipate seeing our Simcha Kids continue to grow and engage with our community in meaningful ways.

## **Relief Fund**

With the rising costs of living and the lingering impact of Covid on the community, we recognise that there is a real and continued need to provide support to ensure that no Jewish individual misses out on participating in Maccabi sport due to financial hardship.



This year to date, Maccabi Victoria has distributed almost **\$7000** to help over **25** families participate in Junior Carnival and join Maccabi sports clubs.

We urge anyone in need to apply today - It is a simple and confidential process - CLICK HERE.

## **Volunteer Campaign**

In May, as part of National Volunteer Week, Maccabi Victoria successfully launched an impactful volunteer campaign aimed at promoting active community engagement within our clubs. The campaign not only highlighted available volunteer roles but also underscored the invaluable role volunteers play in fostering a thriving and sustainable community sports organisation.







LOOKING FORWARD



## **Exciting Road Ahead**

## An Exciting Road Ahead in 2023

As we embark on the next half of 2023, Maccabi Victoria is thrilled to continue sharing our vision of promoting community engagement, fostering leadership, and nurturing a love for sport. The forthcoming activities, infused with passion, dedication, and camaraderie, are truly a reflection of our commitment to enhancing the Maccabi experience.

- 1. Friends of Maccabi Events: Mark your calendars for an exciting lineup of our Friends of Maccabi events in the latter part of the year. We're thrilled to bring you not just one, but two fantastic opportunities to reconnect with friends. Start your day with a delightful pre-Grand Final breakfast celebrating everything AFL, and make sure to save the date for our October luncheon, featuring a fantastic speaker who will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression.
- 2. Junior Carnival: Building on the resounding success of this year's Junior Carnival in Melbourne, we're thrilled to announce that the next Carnival, scheduled from the 16th to the 23rd of January 2024, is already shaping up to be an even grander affair in Sydney. The heightened interest and enthusiasm demonstrated at our recent Info Night on the 18th of June is a promising indicator of what's to come. Registrations are now open: CLICK HERE.
- 3. **Sports Holiday Programs:** Our popular Sports Holiday programs are set to continue, offering youngsters the chance to harness their sportsmanship and team spirit even outside the school term. These engaging and fun-filled activities are a testament to our dedication to youth development through sport. Get ready for the next holiday program set for September 2023 details to follow.
- 4. Pathways Program: The acclaimed Pathways Program is set to carry its momentum into terms 3 and 4, bringing a spectrum of sports from AFL Football, Athletics, Baske@all, Cricket, to Golf, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Soccer, and Volleyball right into schools. Our mission to inspire a lifelong love for sport in children remains as strong as ever.
- 5. All Abilities Initiatives: Our All Abilities team is working diligently to plan a series of exciting engagement events including collaborating with the Maccabi Tennis Club and The Social Blueprint as well as a potential workshop through CSG. These programs aim to ensure an inclusive environment where everyone can enjoy and participate in sporting activities.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude towards all our stakeholders - supporters, clubs, members - who stand with us as pillars of strength and sources of inspiration. Your unwavering support and belief in our mission allows us to continually expand our horizons and create positive change in our community. As we look towards the remainder of 2023, we're excited to further our commitment to promoting physical wellbeing, building strong communities, and fostering the love of sports amongst all. Here's to the exciting journey ahead - together!





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**Connecting our Jewish com**munity through sport and wellbeing